

of *Amphioxus* in the series of higher animals. Nevertheless, that it constitutes an actual transition between the two great groups of the animal kingdom can be asserted of it equally as little as of an *Orthonectid* or of *Trichoplax*; for indeed we have here isolated links before us for which we cannot find a place in our system, beautifully and ingeniously constructed though it is, and which tend to prove how little Nature is amenable to a dogmatic treatment on our part, a treatment which unfortunately appears to take the upper hand too much in the biological sciences, and which would gladly exclude everything which does not fit into its narrow frames.

XIII.—*Descriptions of Seven new Species of Terrestrial Mollusca from South Africa.* By JAMES COSMO MELVILL, M.A., F.L.S., and JOHN HENRY PONSONBY, F.Z.S.

[Plates IV. & VI.]

1. *Helix (Pella) trichosteiroma*, sp. n.
(Pl. IV. fig. 9.)

H. testa angustissime sed profunde umbilicata, corneo-fusca, convexiuscula, sublaevi, longitudinaliter oblique tenuistriata, undique lirulis spiralibus minutissime decussata; anfractibus quinque, ultimo in medio carinato, carina capillis brevibus accincta; apertura lunari-ovata; peristomate simplici ad marginem columellarem reflexo.

Long. 5·50, lat. 7·50 mill.

Hab. Port Elizabeth, S. Africa.

Judging from the description of *Helix petrobia* (Benson), recorded from High Constantia, Cape of Good Hope, but of which we have not been able to examine the type, the species under discussion would seem to differ chiefly in the acutely angled keel, fringed with regular, short, epidermal hairs, also in the form being more convex, colour dull brown, with no fulvous tinge, and other minor distinctions.

2. *Helix (Pella) epetrima*, sp. n. (Pl. IV. fig. 3.)

H. testa anguste umbilicata, depressa, tenui, cornea, subpellucida, undique confertim striatula, striis obliquis regularibus, spira depresso-convexa; anfractibus quatuor, convexiusculis, ad saturas impressis, ultimo anfractu rapide acrescente; apertura lunari;

peristomate simplici, acuto, ad marginem columellarem breviter triangulatim reflexo.

Long. 3, lat. 4.50 mill.

Hab. Somerset District, S. Africa.

Allied to *H. bisculpta* (Benson), from which this little species differs in its whorls being more discoid, greater depression of spire, and smaller size; the system of sculpture, so far as the closely ranged longitudinal striæ are concerned, though apparently identical, is found upon examination with a strong lens to be far more clearly and finely developed in *H. bisculpta*, the striæ in that species looking like finely cut serrations round the edge of the periphery, while in *H. epe-trima* they are barely perceptible and the edge of the shell looks ragged in comparison.

3. *Helix (Pella) lygæa*, sp. n. (Pl. IV. fig. 7.)

H. testa profunde sed anguste umbilicata, cornea, tenui; spira depresso-conoidea; anfractibus sex (ultimo acuti-carinato), undique confertim regulariter obliquistriatis; apertura lunari; peristomate simplici, ad basin reflexo, et ad marginem columellarem laminam triangularem formante.

Long. 7, lat. 12 mill.

Hab. Natal (*Lightfoot*).

A conspicuous species, but one which we have not seen in good live condition. It is of the same horny and striated character of whorl as the last two species, much resembling *H. lens* (Fér.) in miniature, but the outer lip is not so strongly expanded nor developed as in that species.

4. *Stenogyra cacuminata*, sp. n. (Pl. VI. fig. 2.)

S. testa acute turrita, gracili, pellucida, albo-cornea, undique lævissima, nitida; anfractibus decem, ultimis quinque fere uniformibus, ad apicem sensim gradatulis, apice quasi-papillari; apertura ovata; peristomate simplici, acuto.

Long. 21, lat. 5 mill.

Hab. Bedford (*Farquhar*).

A remarkably delicate, shining, pellucid shell, differing from all the species of the genus hitherto described, though its characters are simple enough.

5. *Ennea thelodonta*, sp. n. (Pl. VI. fig. 4.)

E. testa subrimata, breviter cylindriforimi, obtusa, albo-cornea, nitida, tenuissime et regulariter obliquistriata; anfractibus sex,

prope apicem obtusatis, infra cylindræcis; apertura ovato-oblonga, labro reflexo, albo-nitente, quadriplicato, plica parietali magna acinaciformi, producta valide intrante, plica labiali nitida, magna, interdum haud æque bidentata, basali simplici, minore, interna subtus marginem columellarem mammæformi.

Long. 4, lat. 2 mill.

Hab. Noord Hoek (*Langley*) and Monk's Kloof.

An extremely beautiful small species, of horny-white colour, bluntly cylindrical; mouth ovate-oblong, slightly produced, the lip shining white, thick, much reflexed, with four plaits; of these the parietal and labial are very large, shining white, the basal smaller and simple, the internal tooth below the columellar margin being shining white and roundly nipple-shaped. This species seems widely distributed and variable; we have been able to examine a considerable number of individuals.

6. *Ennea munita*, sp. n. (Pl. VI. fig. 5.)

E. testa subrimata, brevi, cylindriformi, minuta, obtusa, tenui, corneo-fuscescente, ad suturas impressa, confertim regulariter argute striata; anfractibus sex, ad apicem duobus brevibus, compressulis, tribus uniformibus, ventricosus, ultimo ad basin producto; apertura oblonga, auriculæformi, constrictissima, labro crasso, albo-nitente, subreflexo, extus scrobiculato, triplicato, plica parietali magna valide intrante, labiali magna crassa, interdum bifurcata, basali minore, margine columellari intus dentato, multum incrassato.

Long. 3.50, lat. 1.50 mill.

Hab. Griqualand East (*E. R. Sykes*).

A smaller species even than the last, to which it possesses many points of similarity, but the nearly closed, very narrowly auricular mouth, with shining white and unusually thickened subreflexed lip, and prominent plicæ amply distinguish it.

7. *Ennea dolichoskia*, sp. n. (Pl. VI. fig. 6.)

E. testa oblongata, cylindræcea, pellucide ochracea, subnitente, undique confertim obliquistriata; anfractibus septem, duobus ad apicem brevissimis, tertio et sequentibus lente accrescentibus, ultimo ad basin prolongato; apertura parva, labro albo-nitido, crassiusculo, quadriplicato, plica parietali conspicua, multum intrante, labiali prominente, basali simplici, minore, quarta interna subtus marginem columellarem variabili, interdum mammæformi.

Long. 5, lat. 2 mill.

Hab. Near Port Elizabeth (*Langley*).

A very similar shell to *E. thelodonta*, differing in being composed of more whorls, namely seven, as against six, greater attenuation of build, and feebler development of lip, though the various plicæ are arranged as those of the above-mentioned species. It is never difficult, however, to distinguish them.

XIV.—*Descriptions of Seventeen new Terrestrial Mollusks from South or Central Africa, in the Collection of Edgar L. Layard, Esq.* By JAMES COSMO MELVILL, M.A., F.L.S., and JOHN HENRY PONSONBY, F.Z.S.

[Plates IV.—VI.]

THE seventeen species which form the subject of the present paper are from the collection of Mr. Edgar L. Layard, who has most kindly placed them at our disposal for description.

1. *Nanina hypochlora*, sp. n. (Pl. IV. fig. 8.)

N. testa imperforata, effusa, pallide stramineo-cornea, vitrea, lævi, nitida; anfractibus quinque, planato-depressis, ultimo rapide accrescente; apertura ovata; peristomate simplici, tenui.
Long. 4.50, lat. 12 mill.

Hab. Cape of Good Hope (*Edgar L. Layard*).

A plain, smooth, shining, and delicate little species, somewhat flattened, the last whorl much the largest, lip thin, aperture ovate.

Though of simple character it does not appear to have been previously noticed or described. Two specimens, precisely similar.

2. *Helix (Pella) rhysodes*, sp. n. (Pl. IV. fig. 2.)

H. testa profunde sed anguste umbilicata, tenui, depresso-convexa, corneo-fuscescente, ad apicem planato-depressa; anfractibus quinque, apud suturas compressis, undique longitudinaliter liris albulis irregularibus oblique cinctis, ultimo anfractu ad medium vix angulato; apertura lunari-ovata; peristomate simplici, tenui, ad marginem columellarem reflexo.
Long. 4, lat. 6 mill.

Hab. "S. Africa" (*E. L. Layard*).

Unfortunately Mr. Layard has no record of the precise